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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Friday, May 28, 2021, at 10 a.m.

Senate

THURSDAY, MAY 27, 2021

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JACKY ROSEN, a Senator from the State of Nevada.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal God, hear our prayers and be merciful to us. We find protection in the shadow of Your wings. Our longings lie open before You. You know the desires of our hearts.

Sanctify the motives of our lawmakers so that they will work with all their might as if working for Your approval. May they live for Your glory. Lord, deliver them from the deceptive forces that seek to distract them from Your redemptive wisdom.

Do not leave or forsake us, for You are the hope for our tomorrows.

We pray in Your merciful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, May 27, 2021.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable JACKY ROSEN, a Senator from the State of Nevada, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,
President pro tempore.

Ms. ROSEN thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE. The Democratic leader is recognized.

ENDLESS FRONTIER ACT

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, the Senate opens this morning after a very late night of amendment votes on the U.S. Innovation and Competition Act—USICA; those are the initials—five in total, four of which of these amendments were sponsored by Republicans. So far on this bill, the Senate has held votes on no fewer than 18 amendments, 4 from Democrats and 14 from Republicans, and there are more to come.

As I mentioned yesterday, in a landmark moment for bipartisanship in the Senate, we even adopted an amendment from Senator RAND PAUL by voice vote. Yes, that is right. I said the

two words together. RAND PAUL; voice vote—four words. I said the two concepts together: RAND PAUL; voice vote—four words.

Now, the media will tell you that if you are talking process, you are losing, but the process was really important here. For years, Senators have been clamoring for a more open process and more amendment votes. I can't tell you how many speeches I have heard on the floor about the virtues of regular order. Well, this competition bill ought to be the answer to my colleagues' prayers.

The bill has moved through regular order, flying through various Senate committees with staggering bipartisan votes. The entire Senate opted to take up the bill by a vote of 86 to 11.

Here on the floor, we have held the kind of vigorous, bipartisan, open amendment process that Senators have been calling for. Some of these votes were tough for our side. In the old days, we would have said no. We said yes, we will vote for them, but let's keep moving forward, and we are.

Listen to this. It is only May, roughly 5 months since Democrats took the majority in this Chamber, and already more amendments have received rollcall votes than during any of the past 4 years. Let me repeat that so people hear it from one end of the Capitol to the other, particularly on this side of the aisle. In 5 months, more amendments have received rollcall votes in this Democrat-led Senate than during any of the years in which Donald Trump was President and Senator MCCONNELL was majority leader.

We have considered the competition bill in an exceedingly bipartisan way.

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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